

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 22 through page 6, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

Embodiments according to the invention can operate within what is sometimes referred to as an Open Grid Services Architecture (OGSA). In an OGSA system, world-wide-web, (i.e. Web) services can provide a framework for application-to-application interaction that grants access to services via the Internet. These services can allow a more extensive use of the Web's functionality by supporting automatic processes involving machine-to-machine cooperation and interaction. The infrastructure used to provide these services (as well as data) is sometimes referred to as a "grid." As used herein, a grid can be a geographically distributed set of heterogeneous machines that are configured to communicate with one another via a network (such as the Internet). The heterogeneous machines that provide services in the grid are sometimes referred to as service nodes. In operation, a service node within the grid can request service from another service node within the grid. Furthermore, the service node to which this request for service is made can propagate the request to yet other service nodes within the grid, which ultimately results in the requested service being provided to the requesting node. OGSA, and grid architecture in general, is described further, for example, on the Internet at globus.org ~~www.globus.org~~, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the Globus Alliance has published various articles and presentations which discuss the infrastructure and architecture. One such article published by Globus (and also available on the Internet) is entitled *The Physiology of the Grid* and is available at globus.org/OGSA ~~www.globus.org/OGSA/~~, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. Other Globus articles are also available on the Internet generally and specifically at the above website.